



Tennessee First to the Top Monthly Update

January 2012

- **Standards and Assessments**—Tennessee has continued to develop and refine its plans for the transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in the month of January. Dates for the three day summer training sessions on 3rd-8th grade math were communicated to Directors of Schools in mid-January. The state also convened a team of math specialists to complete the 3rd-8th grade math crosswalk between the Tennessee Diploma Project (TDP) standards and the CCSS. In coming weeks, the crosswalk will be reviewed by an external expert. Additionally, TDOE has worked with the writers of the math CCSS to develop plans for assessment transitions and professional development offerings.
- **Data**—The P-20 Longitudinal Data System is continuing its work in the data discovery phase, and the matching analysis process has begun, linking together data sources using unique identifiers. The development environment for the P-20 system has also been completed. In addition, the development of the governance framework has seen significant progress. The second Steering Committee meeting is scheduled to take place January 31st, bringing together the commissioners from the following state departments: Education, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Labor and Workforce Development, Human Services, and Children's Services to discuss governance issues and data sharing. Representatives from the University of Tennessee system, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association will also be present to discuss additional data that they might be able to provide to the P-20 system.

Staff from the state's sub grantee on this project, the Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER) at the University of Tennessee, along with the vendor ESP Solutions conducted User Experience Workshops with TDOE, THEC, and Labor staff. These workshops were designed to share a high-level view of the P20 TLDS System, identify types of users, define design concepts for the visual display of the site, and determine how agency personnel need to interact with reports and data.

The Early Warning Data System (EWDS) development is on-track to begin the pilot phase in March. The department has received commitments from ten LEAs to participate in the pilot. The districts represent a good sample of urban, suburban, and rural districts from across the state. The department is currently developing a training plan and feedback structure for this pilot phase.

- **Great Teachers and Leaders**—Department leaders and TEAM staff are continuing the efforts to provide implementation guidance, maintain communication structures, and ensure data system access to support the TEAM evaluation system. As of mid-December, the evaluation data

system was accessible for all administrators to begin inputting observation scores. The 15% achievement module was also made available for data input.

The department also conducted 10 TEAM Support Meetings throughout the state that reached more than 500 participants from almost every district. These meetings were used to present critical updates and additional guidance on aspects of the TEAM system that will be implemented in the second semester. In addition, refresher training sessions were held and attended by approximately 400 evaluators. The last round of new evaluator trainings for the 2011-2012 school year was also completed in January.

The TEAM Summer 2012 Training Plan was communicated to districts in mid-January. This plan detailed training dates for new evaluator training, recertification training, and alternative rubric training which will occur throughout June and August.

- **School Turnaround** –The Achievement School District (ASD) has made significant progress throughout the month of January in preparation for taking over its first set of schools in the fall. ASD staff are currently working with Metro Nashville Public Schools and Memphis City Schools to identify the schools that will be part of the ASD for the 2012-2013 school year. The ASD hopes to be able to announce these schools in February. Staff have also interviewed several vendors to develop its financial and student information systems.

Two additional ASD staff members, the Director of Communications and Director of Talent and Recruitment, began work in January. An initial website (www.tnasd.org) containing information including the ASD's teacher application was launched this month. The launch of the teacher application also coincided with the beginning of several recruitment events.

On January 12th and 13th the ASD hosted Opportunity Days to recruit charter management organizations (CMOs) to Tennessee. The event hosted in Memphis was attended by 13 CMOs, who met key education officials including Governor Haslam and were introduced to the turnaround and charter work taking place in Tennessee.

- **Local Education Agency Plans** – Grant awards and approval notifications were issued to 31 LEAs in mid-January as part of the first scope of work amendment window. The department has also worked to develop a structure and timeline to conduct Partnership Meetings with all LEAs throughout the spring to help support districts in navigating any implementation challenges they may be facing. These meetings will take the place of traditional programmatic monitoring visits for FTTT. LEAs are currently completing Performance Support Documents to self-assess their efforts in implementing the FTTT assurances and scope of work activities in anticipation of these meetings. The department feels that this work will be critical in continuing to establish a collaborative and support-based relationship with all LEAs.
- **STEM**—The Tennessee Higher Education Commission finalized the second-round RFP for STEM Professional Development. This RFP will be released to higher education institutions on February 1st.

The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network (TSIN) received 8 proposals for schools and hubs from institutions across the state. A committee is set to begin reviewing these applications and make funding recommendations in the next month. TSIN is also working to finalize its evaluation plan

and its contracts with Knox County Schools and Metro Nashville Public Schools designed to support the two existing network schools in the 2012-2013 school year.